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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 March 2018

37/6. The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations, and also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 7/11 of 27 March 2008, 19/20 of 23 March 2012, 25/8 of 27 March 2014 and 31/14 of 23 March 2016, all other resolutions relevant to the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Welcoming the resolve of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and noting with interest the provisions of the Convention that have led to the development of a mechanism among States parties to review their progress in combating corruption,

Welcoming also the commitments made by all States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels,

Noting the ongoing work by several important initiatives towards the deepening of good governance practices at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and international levels, for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance and human rights,

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Recognizing also that transparent, responsible, accountable, open and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people is the foundation on which good governance rests, and that such a foundation is one of the indispensable conditions for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development,

Stressing that good governance at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and in this context reaffirming the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the 2010 High-level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the increasing awareness in the international community of the detrimental impact of widespread corruption on human rights through both the weakening of institutions and the erosion of public trust in government, and through the impairment of the ability of Governments to fulfil all their human rights obligations,

Recognizing also that good governance and the fight against corruption have a central role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the elimination of obstacles to development,

Realizing that the fight against corruption at all levels plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the process of creating sustainable, effective, accountable and transparent institutions to achieve the full enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights, including by strengthening transparency and accountability in government, are mutually reinforcing,

Noting with interest the outcomes of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Doha in 2009, in Marrakech, Morocco in 2011, in Panama City in 2013, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation in 2015, and in Vienna in 2017,

Stressing the importance of policy coherence and coordination in intergovernmental processes in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights on the one hand, and of anti-corruption initiatives on the other,

Stressing also the importance of developing and implementing national legislation on the promotion of access to information, of establishing active, free and meaningful participation and of strengthening the administration of justice, transparency, accountability and good governance at all levels,

Reaffirming the right of every citizen to have access, in general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country as enshrined in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing that a professional, accountable and transparent public service upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is one of the essential components of good governance,

Recognizing also that the knowledge, training and awareness of public servants and the promotion of a human rights culture within the public service play a vital role in promoting respect for and the realization of human rights in society,

Recognizing further that meaningful progress towards good governance can better be achieved with appropriate tools or mechanisms to review, measure and assess such progress,

Welcoming the contribution of the United Nations Public Service Awards programme, which recognizes excellence in public service to the promotion of the role, professionalism and visibility of public service, and noting its review to align it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, including its recognition of the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained therein, including their means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked,

Emphasizing the importance to Member States of the Sustainable Development Goals, recalling that Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and acknowledging that efforts to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption also contribute to the achievement of that goal,

Taking into account the ongoing work of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations relating to the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the holding by the Human Rights Council, at its thirtieth session, of a panel discussion on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service and the summary report thereon;[2]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities and programmes of the United Nations system contributing to the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;[3]

3. *Recognizes* that international human rights law provides a set of standards to guide governing processes and to assess performance outcomes, and in this regard stresses that good governance is necessary for establishing and maintaining an environment conducive to the promotion and protection of human rights;

4. *Welcomes* the growing trend towards the universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, encourages States that have not yet ratified this important international instrument to consider doing so, and encourages States parties to the Convention to promote its effective implementation;

5. *Also welcomes* the commitments made by all States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, including in Sustainable Development Goal 16;

6. *Urges* States to increase their efforts and to take measures to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms and at all levels, and thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16;

7. *Underlines* that the primary responsibility lies with States at the national level, including through their constitutional provisions and other enabling legislation, consistent with their international obligations, to ensure that professional public services uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and are predicated on good governance principles, including impartiality, rule of law, transparency, accountability, participation, inclusivity and combating corruption, and stresses the importance of human rights training and education in this regard;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure the upholding of the integrity of the United Nations system in its service of humanity, and improved coordination between United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, with a view to ensuring that the United

[2] A/HRC/31/28.
[3] A/HRC/34/28.

Nations system continues to improve the quality of its work at all levels, including in support of objectives and priorities at the national level;

9. *Encourages* the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to continue to consider, within their respective mandates, the issue of the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;

10. *Encourages* States to consider developing and implementing appropriate tools or mechanisms to review, measure and assess progress in good governance, including but not limited to the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16;

11. *Requests* the High Commissioner:

(a) To convene, before the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council, a half-day intersessional seminar on the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, and on sharing best practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 in this regard;

(b) To invite States, the special procedures and other relevant stakeholders from diverse regions, including experts and civil society organizations, and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to participate actively in the above-mentioned seminar;

(c) To submit to the Human Rights Council at its forty-third session a report, in the form of a summary, on the seminar;

12. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

53rd meeting
22 March 2018

[Adopted without a vote.]